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## *Detailed Fiscal Analysis*

The bill increases funding for the Ohio Research Scholars Program through various appropriation transfers and an earmark. The bill does not increase the total state appropriation from any fund.

### **Ohio Research Scholars Program**

The Ohio Research Scholars Program is a competitive grant program designed to provide state funds to be deposited into an endowment, the income of which universities may use to recruit scientists to their faculties. Under current law, only state institutions may submit proposals for the program, although the proposals may be implemented in collaboration with nonpublic institutions. Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th General Assembly appropriates \$30.0 million in FY 2008 from the GRF and \$20.0 million in FY 2009 from the Third Frontier Research and Development Fund (Fund 011) for this program.

The bill increases funds available to the Ohio Research Scholars Program by \$28.0 million over the FY 2008-FY 2009 biennium. This includes \$12.0 million in each fiscal year from Fund 011, \$1.0 million in FY 2009 from the GRF, and \$3 million in capital funding from the Higher Education Improvement Fund (Fund 034). The bill stipulates that only the amount of the original GRF appropriation (\$30.0 million in FY 2008) must be deposited into an endowment. The bill also permits Ohio's nonpublic institutions of higher education to submit proposals for the Ohio Research Scholars Program if each proposal will be implemented in collaboration with a state institution. Under this provision, nonpublic institutions may receive Ohio Research Scholars Program awards and must follow the same rules and requirements as state institutions.

### **Research Incentive Program**

The Research Incentive Program provides matching funds for external research grants and awards obtained by public universities. H.B. 119 appropriates \$12.0 million in each fiscal year from the GRF and \$18.0 million in each fiscal year from Fund 011 for this program. The bill maintains the GRF funding, but reduces the funding from Fund 011 by \$12.0 million in each fiscal year. This funding reduction offsets the increase in Fund 011 appropriations for the Ohio Research Scholars Program. The bill also shifts the remaining Fund 011 appropriation of \$6.0 million in each fiscal year from the Department of Development's budget to the Board of Regents' budget.

### **Eminent Scholars Program**

The Eminent Scholars program is intended to attract and sustain prominent faculty to lead research programs at Ohio's public universities, an objective shared by the Ohio Research Scholars Program. H.B. 119 appropriates \$1.0 million in FY 2009 from the GRF for this program. The bill eliminates this funding, thereby offsetting the increase in GRF funding for the Ohio Research Scholars Program.

**Research Facility Action and Investment Funds**

Am. Sub. H.B. 699 of the 126th General Assembly appropriates \$5.5 million in capital funding for Research Facility Action and Investment Funds. H.B. 699 stipulates that these funds be used for grants for research facilities at state institutions of higher education. The bill earmarks \$3.0 million of this appropriation for capital projects under the Ohio Research Scholars Program.

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